

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 189618

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/PAF: K.L. MARSHALL

APPROVED BY: ARA/PAF: B.BELL

ARA: H.W. SHLAUDEMANN (INFO) ARA/BC: KARKASHIAN (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:

TAGS: CI, PFOR

SUBJ: GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR NOON BRIEFING

FOLLOWING GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR DEPT. SPOKESMAN AT MONDAY, SEPT.
24, NOON BRIEFING. NO QUESTIONS ASKED AT BRIEFING.

Q. HAS THE U.S. NOTIFIED THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT YET THAT WE WISH
TO CONTINUE RELATIONS WITH THEM?

A: WE HAVE NOT YET CONTACTED THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT ON THIS
MATTER. (ON BACKGROUND: FOR YOUR INFORMATION WE EXPECT TO DO SO
QUITE SOON.) (ADVISORY TO SPOKESMAN: LET THE STORY COME OUT OF
SANTIAGO WHEN WE DO NOTIFY THE GOVERNMENT AND CONFIRM IT HERE.)

Q: WAS AMBASSADOR DAVIS IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEKEND?

A: AMBASSADOR DAVIS WAS HERE OVER THE WEEKEND. HE ARRIVED
HERE SATURDAY MORNING FROM CHILE AND LEFT SUNDAY AFTERNOON TO
RETURN. WHILE HE WAS HERE HE HAD CONSULTATIONS WITH DEPARTMENT
OFFICIALS CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN CHILE AND MET WITH THE
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PAGE 02 STATE 189618

SECRETARY.

Q: WHAT DID THE SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR DAVIS TALK ABOUT?

A: I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS WAS A CONTINUATION OF THE CONSULTATION THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY, AND YOU MAY ASSUME THAT AMBASSADOR DAVIS ALSO BRIEFED THE SECRETARY ON THE SITUATION IN CHILE.

Q: CAN YOU COMMENT ON THE CHARGES MADE BY MR. AND MRS. SCHESCH THAT THEY WITNESSED MASS EXECUTIONS BY THE MILITARY IN THE NATIONAL STADIUM WHILE THEY THEMSELVES WERE BEING DETAINED?

A: I HAVE SEEN THE REPORTS IN THE PRESS. I HAVE ALSO SEEN THE PRESS REPORT THAT THE CHILEAN AUTHORITIES HAVE STATED THAT THESE CHARGES ARE "ABSOLUTELY BASELESS" AND THAT NO ONE HAS BEEN "EXECUTED" AT THE NATIONAL STADIUM. I WOULD IMAGINE WE WILL BE HEARING FURTHER AS TO THE FACTS FROM THE MANY FOREIGN NEWSMEN WHO WERE ALLOWED BY THE CHILEAN AUTHORITIES TO VISIT THE STADIUM SEVERAL DAYS AGO.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE PHYSICAL BRUTALITY CHARGES?

A: HERE AGAIN WE DON'T HAVE ANY INFORMATION TO VERIFY OR REFUTE SUCH CHARGES. OUR CONSUL IN SANTIAGO HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED ON SEVERAL OVCASIONS TO SEEK TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF ALL AMERICAN CITIZENS, INCLUDING THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN DETAINED. I THINK I CAN SAY WITH SOME ASSURANCE THAT THE RELEASE OF MR. AND MRS. SCHESCH AND SEVERAL OTHER AMERICANS WAS IN NO SMALL PART DUE TO THE REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY OUR CONSUL.

Q: DIDN'T THE SCHESCH'S MAKE KNOWN THEIR CHARGES TO THE AMERICAN CONSUL?

A: WE HAVE NOTHING TO INDICATE THAT MR. AND MRS. SCHESCH REVEALED TO OUR CONSUL, OR TO ANYONE ELSE IN SANTIAGO FOR THAT MATTER THE CHARGES WHICH THEY SUBSEQUENTLY MADE UPON ARRIVING IN THE U.S. (WE ARE ASKING POST.)

Q: HOW MANY OTHER AMERICANS ARE STILL BEING DETAINED?

A: OUR BEST INFORMATION IS THAT THERE ARE THREE AMERICANS PRES-
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PAGE 03 STATE 189618

ENTLY UNDER DETENTION. (THEIR NAMES ARE JOSEPH DOUGHERTY, FRANCIS FLYNN, AND JUAN JOSE NELASCO.) LET ME ADD THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL OTHER AMERICANS WHOSE WHEREABOUTS WE ARE STILL TRYING TO ASCERTAIN. WE HAVE MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE CHILEAN AUTHORITIES FOR THE RELEASE OF THOSE AMERICANS WHO ARE STILL BEING DETAINED, AND WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THEY WILL BE RELEASED SHORTLY. RUSH

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